

# H. R. 473.

[Report No 35.]

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

FEBRUARY 20, 1851.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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Mr. F. P. STANTON, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported the following bill:

## A BILL

To increase the efficiency of the naval service.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represen-*  
2 *tatives of the United States of America in Congress*  
3 *assembled,* That for the purpose of fully testing the results  
4 of experiments made by the Bureau of Ordnance and Hy-  
5 drography, in reference to the efficiency of heavy ordnance,  
6 the President is hereby authorized to cause a vessel to be  
7 built upon the most approved model, and to be armed with  
8 the most effective ordnance which it is possible to serve  
9 with safety on board ship at sea; and for this purpose the  
10 sum of                   dollars is hereby appropriated, out of  
11 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.  
12 And the President shall have power, when in his judgment,

13 the public interest will be thereby promoted, to cause any  
 14 vessel of the navy requiring expensive repairs, from decay  
 15 or other causes, to be sold, instead of repaired, and to ap-  
 16 ply the proceeds thereof, towards building other vessels of  
 17 improved model and with heavy guns, or to place the pro-  
 18 ceeds of such sale in the treasury, communicating to Con-  
 19 gress from time to time, a full and accurate account of the  
 20 sums so received, and of the disposition made thereof:  
 21 *Provided*, That in all vessels hereafter to be built for the  
 22 navy, white oak and other cheap timber shall be substitu-  
 23 ted for live oak, as far as may be consistent with strength  
 24 of hull and economy of the public money.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Presi-  
 2 dent is hereby authorized to divide the waters of the Uni-  
 3 ted States into two divisions, viz: the Atlantic and the Pa-  
 4 cific; the limits of which shall be distinctly defined. And  
 5 it shall be his duty to cause the naval forces to be distribu-  
 6 ted to these stations according to their respective demands.  
 7 And he is hereby authorized, gradually to collect on the  
 8 Pacific coast of the United States, and cause to be there  
 9 laid up in ordinary, held in reserve, or put in commission,  
 10 according to the exigencies of the public service, such a  
 11 number of the men-of-war, with their necessary armaments  
 12 and equipments, now belonging to the navy, or hereafter  
 13 to be built, as may, in his judgment, be required to provide

14 that coast with sufficient means for naval defence: *Pro-*  
 15 *vided*, That whenever it may prove to be cheaper to send  
 16 the officers, men, and stores, necessary for the Pacific sta-  
 17 tion across the Isthmus, rather than round Cape Horn, the  
 18 President may contract for their transportation to and fro,  
 19 over any one or more of the routes across the said Isth-  
 20 mus, retaining the public vessels on duty upon the station  
 21 aforesaid

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That by and with  
 2 the advice and consent of the Senate, the President shall  
 3 appoint, promote, and commission from among the offi-  
 4 cers of the navy, officers of the following named grades,  
 5 to wit:

6       First. Two Admirals, whose pay shall be at the rate  
 7 of                               dollars per annum, and whose office  
 8 and rank shall be to the navy what the office and rank of  
 9 major general are to the army. One of said Admirals  
 10 shall be stationed at such point on the Atlantic, and the  
 11 other at such point on the Pacific, as the President shall  
 12 direct. The Admiral stationed on the Pacific, shall have  
 13 general command and control, under the Secretary of the  
 14 Navy, of all vessels, persons, and things, pertaining to the  
 15 naval service on that station. He shall exercise the pow-  
 16 ers with regard to courts martial and courts of inquiry, for  
 17 offences and acts occurring within the limits of the Pacific

18 station, which are conferred by articles thirty-five, forty-  
19 one, forty-two, section one, and article one, section two, of  
20 an act entitled "An act for the better government of the  
21 Navy of the United States," approved April twenty-third,  
22 eighteen hundred.

23       Second   Eighteen commodores, whose rate of pay  
24 per annum shall be that of captains when in command of  
25 squadrons on foreign stations, as by the act of March third,  
26 eighteen hundred and thirty-five, entitled "An act to regu-  
27 late the pay of the navy of the United States:" *Provided*,  
28 The number of commodores and captains shall not exceed  
29 the number of captains now authorized by law.

30       Third.   Such number of masters as may be equal to  
31 the number of vessels belonging to the navy of the United  
32 States, but not to exceed the number required by the regu-  
33 lations of the naval service to make up the compliment of  
34 officers of this grade allowed to the vessels actually at any  
35 time in the navy.

36       Fourth.   The grade of passed midshipmen shall be a  
37 grade of commissioned officers: *Provided*, That nothing  
38 contained in this act shall be so construed as to alter the  
39 pay of masters, or passed midshipmen, as now established  
40 by law, or to impair their claims to promotion, or to au-  
41 thorize any increase in the total number of the two grades  
42 beyond the number now authorized by law.

1        SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be  
2 the duty of the President to cause to be prepared a suitable  
3 code of laws for the navy, and to submit the same to Con-  
4 gress, as soon as practicable, for such further action as  
5 may be required.

1        SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That hereafter the  
2 estimates and the appropriations for the support of the  
3 naval service shall be arranged and submitted under two  
4 heads, one of which shall embrace the estimates and ap-  
5 propriations for the support of the personnel of the navy,  
6 for the repair of ships in actual service, for their provisions,  
7 stores, outfits, and all other items of expenditure necessary  
8 for maintaining so much of the navy as may be in actual  
9 service from time to time ; under the other, shall be em-  
10 braced all items of expenditure for objects of a permanent  
11 nature, such as the building of docks, improvement of yards,  
12 collection of materials, including ordnance, the building of  
13 ships, the purchase of machinery, contracts for carrying  
14 the mail in ocean steamers suitable for war purposes, and  
15 all other items of a like character.

1        SEC. 6 *And be it further enacted*, That all acts  
2 and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this,  
3 are hereby repealed.